

Session 18

The Law Ten Words **Covenant**

Exodus 20

God reveals Himself, His Nature, how He wants people to live.

Structure of treaties of the time between a king and his vassals.

V2: God clarifies who is giving the law and what the basis is ; He brought them out of Egypt and freed them from slavery. So He is setting the rules. Deliverance precedes demands.

V3: no other gods. Nothing can be more important.

V4: carved idols. No representation of God in an image; can only worship in a proscribed way. Bowing down is worship. Jealous God. Demands exclusive allegiance.

Keeping these laws will result in mercy.

V7: Misuse of God's Name. Will not go unpunished.

V 8-11 : Sabbath. Established at Creation. Lord's Day. No work including slaves, foreigners, and animals.

V 12 : Honor father and mother. Has a promise.

V 13: Refers to murder. Clarified later in Law. So serious that death penalty is set up.

V 14 and 15 : Adultery and stealing. Self-explanatory.

V 16 : false witness. Especially in courts of law. Later had to have 2 or 3 witnesses that agreed to be convicted.

V 17 : coveting ; desire to have what doesn't belong to you.

Violation of the Law is **sin!** New Testament relevance.

People were afraid : thunder, lightning, cloud, trumpet blasts. They tell Moses they will die.

Moses tells them God wants them to fear Him so they would not sin.

Do not make anything that rank with Him; no gold or silver gods. Altars for the sacrifices. Beginning of regulations and order of worship.

Stated again in Deuteronomy 5 : 6-21. Re-stated with Moses as mediator.

Basically the same as in Ex 20. Sabbath should remember also *salvation* from Egypt as well as creation.

Moses reminds them that LORD spoke from the cloud and fire and He wrote them on stone tablets. These were the only laws written by God; others were given to Moses.

God re-states that it is good that the people fear Him so they will not sin. Do not go to the left or the right.

Be careful to observe them.

Exodus 21-40 the other laws are given to Moses. He writes the; **not** God.

Some examples:

If you sacrifice to other god you will be destroyed. Jealous God.

Don't mistreat a stranger because you were once strangers in Egypt.

Don't afflict widow or orphan or God will make your wife a widow and your children orphans.

Eye for an eye, tooth for a tooth...limits revenge in proportion to the injury.

Sabbath year: every 7 years no planting. Poor can harvest whatever grows.

3 feasts : Passover (unleavened bread), First harvest (Shavaot or Pentecost), Ingathering (Feast of Tabernacles)...bring the best first fruits.

Do not worship the deities in Canaan.

Destroy their temples and sacred pillars. Don't allow them in the Land; a snare.

God will always be with them; the angel has **His name**.

Moses alone could approach God. Others had to worship from a distance. Moses was the mediator.

Ex 24:3 people said all the words the LORD said we will do!

Moses **wrote** down all the laws. Torah begins. Covenant relationship.

Moses builds an altar with 12 pillars. Animal sacrifices. Blood on altar then reads the Covenant . Then sprinkles blood on the people.

Solemn ratification of the Covenant. Shows its significance. Covenant is in **blood**. An atoning sacrifice was always needed.

God was present in the worship.

Moses, Aaron and elders went up and saw God. Unclear what they saw